

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 08147

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GW, GR
SUBJECT: CARAMANLIS VISIT TO BONN

REF: ATHENS 3691

SUMMARY: FONOFF SOURCE WHO BRIEFED US ON CARAMANLIS' MAY 15-17 VISIT TO BONN SAID THAT DISCUSSION OF GREEK ASSOCIATION WITH EC EMPHASIZED POLITICAL ASPECTS. CARAMANLIS STRESSED IMPORTANCE GREECE ATTACHES TO NATO AND FACT THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM MILITARY INTEGRATION FORCED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. GREEK VIEWS ON CYPRUS WERE GUARDEDLY PESSIMISTIC. END SUMMARY.

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1. GREEK TIES WITH EC. GERMANS GOT THE IMPRESSION

THAT THE GREEKS WERE LESS INTERESTED IN FULL-SCALE MEMBERSHIP IN THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF THE EC THAN THEY WERE IN FINDING A WAY OF PARTICIPATING IN EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION. THEY RECOGNIZED, OUR SOURCE SAID, THE CONSIDERABLE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THAT REMAINED TO BE SOLVED BEFORE FULL MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE POSSIBLE, AND THEY WERE ALSO AWARE OF THE NEED FOR THE EC TO PURSUE A BALANCED POLICY WITH RESPECT TO BOTH GREECE AND TURKEY. CARAMANLIS STRESSED THE NEED FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG THE DEMOCRATICALLY RULED STATES, WHICH WERE FACED WITH A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES THAT COULD ONLY BE MET SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH COMMON POLICIES. THE GERMAN RESPONSE WAS SUPPORTIVE AND MEANT TO BE ENCOURAGING, BUT WAS ALSO KEPT DELIBERATELY VAGUE. THE CHANCELLOR TOLD CARAMANLIS THAT THE FRG, BOTH WITHIN THE EC AND NATO, WOULD WORK FOR A PROGRESSIVE INTEGRATION OF GREECE INTO EUROPE. A RAPID AND EFFECTIVE REINVIGORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GREECE AND THE EC APPEARED TO BE THE BEST APPROACH.

2. GREEK MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. CARAMANLIS TOLD THE CHANCELLOR THAT, FACED WITH DEVELOPMENTS ON CYPRUS, HE HAD HAD THREE CHOICES: TO GO TO WAR AGAINST TURKEY; TO RESIGN; OR TO WITHDRAW FROM THE MILITARY INTEGRATION OF NATO. HE HAD CHOSEN THE LEAST BAD OF THE THREE, AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED BY GREECE'S WESTERN EUROPEAN FRIENDS. GREECE THOROUGHLY SHARED THE FRG'S ESTIMATE OF NATO'S IMPORTANCE BUT GREEK PUBLIC OPINION WOULD NOT HAVE TOLERATED TOTAL INACTION ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS. CARAMANLIS' INTENTION WAS TO HOLD THINGS "IN SUSPENSE". THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. WOULD BE "CLARIFIED IN A POSITIVE WAY".

3. ALTHOUGH BOTH CARAMANLIS AND BITSIOS PRESENTED GREEK VIEWS ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION, THIS WAS NOT THE MAJOR SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION. GERMANS FOUND BITSIOS TOUGHER ON THIS ISSUE THAN CARAMANLIS. GREEK VIEW WAS THAT DIRECT TALKS ON CYPRUS OFFERED MORE PROMISE THAN DID NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE PESSIMISTIC ON BOTH COUNTS. CARAMANLIS POINTED TO THE DANGERS AND HARDSHIPS

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INVOLVED IN LARGE POPULATION MOVEMENTS AND TO THE FACT THAT ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF CYPRUS' ECONOMIC CAPACITY IS LOCATED ON THE TURKISH-OCCUPIED PART OF THE ISLAND.

4. GREEKS ASKED GERMANS TO SUPPORT THEIR REQUEST FOR AN EC CREDIT OF \$580 MILLION AND FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL CREDITS OF UP TO \$800 MILLION, THE LATTER APPARENTLY HAVING TO DO WITH A RESTRUCTURING OF GREECE'S EXTERNAL

DEBT. IT WAS IN THIS CONNECTION THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
SUGGESTED THAT BANK OF GREECE GOVERNOR COME TO THE FRG.
HILLENBRAND

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